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Flamenco!



Synopsis

The word "flamenco" has an international resonance, yet few people know much about flamenco itself - for most it means a colourful Spanish dance but behind the superficial image lies a significant history and evolution. This study explores this history from its earliest beginnings in songs, to its present sophistication in the combination of leading singers and dancers. The religious and ethnic influences on flamenco are analyzed as well as its place in literature, the themes that appear in its songs, its grounding in Andalusia and the 20th-century revival of its basic meaning under the aegis of the poet Lorca and other Spanish notables.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This coffee-table sized, lavishly illustrated book presents a gorgeous panorama of flamenco in Spain, from its origins with the Gypsies of Andalusia to the modern Nuevo Flamenco movement. The text is thorough, comprehensive, and supremely interesting. Edwards' style flows nicely among the many photographs, never failing to follow this engaging detail or that, and always presenting the art of Flamenco in its truest light: from artists to its impact upon Spanish culture. Words cannot adequately express the beauty of Haas's photographs; the man deserves at least an extra hundred pages. Dancers whirl in blurs of light and fabric; ancient cantadores sing with all the passion of their soul; a pair of Gypsies laugh and play guitar in the light of a barrel-fire. Haas effectively - and gorgeously - captures the very heart of Flamenco in his photos. The book is further enhanced by a number of smaller, black-and-white, historic photos and illustrations, bringing the masters of the past to life. Enough good things cannot be said about this book - order a copy today!

The Haas/Edwards Flamenco is worth more than its price for the photographs alone. They are lush, seductive, and captivating, even if one has no particular interest in flamenco as an art. Miraculously, the prose comes very close to living up to the photographs it accompanies. It's a careful, accurate account of the development of flamenco. If your flamenco shelf has room for only two books, they should be Donn Pohren's Art of Flamenco, for the encyclopedia and the "insider's" view, and this one for the overall story and the pictures that capture the art so well.

The photographs in this book are astonishing. They convey a feeling of warmth and movement that is rarely seen in still photography. This is a wonderful book to own, both for latin dance lovers and photography buffs.

I am new to flamenco. I have read Emma Martinez's book "Flamenco" which flooded me with information! Great book! This book is a good source too and gave me some information that Martinez's lack. One example, that Hindu dancers were entertaining in Spanish courts around 500 B.C.! The author highlights the similarities of flamenco, bullfighting, and the Mass as the "Holy Trinity" of Spanish culture with good points. And another parallel with Greek tragedy. The reading is interesting and the photographs are great! One critic is disappointed that Juan Serrano is not mentioned but the book is not solely based on flamenco guitar and hence many great players are not mentioned. But it does cover a lot of ground regarding flamenco dance, song, guitar, history and tradition. I would recommend it. The only reason why I don't give it a 5 star rating is because I am biased and wanted to know a lot more about the guitar players too! But there are plenty of other sources for that.

If you are looking for a book that captures the essence of flamenco - from historical as well as current perspective, this is the one. Text and photos are marvelously integrated. I recommend it for anyone interested in this expressive dance form. Great!

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